

1 Honorable Karen A. Overstreet
2
3
4
5

6 IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE
7 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE

8 In re:) Chapter 7
9) Bankruptcy No. 08-14147
10 CHRISTOPHER PHILLIPS,)
d/b/a Seattle Eye Surgeons, P.S., d/b/a)
Lomas LASIK and Eye Surgery Center,)
11 Debtor(s).)
12 STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY,) Adversary No. 08-01232
13 Plaintiff,)
14 v.)
15 CHRISTOPHER B. PHILLIPS, Debtor, and) ANSWER AND CROSS CLAIM
NANCY L. JAMES, solely in her capacity as) TO DETERMINE EXEMPTIONS
chapter 7 Trustee for Christopher Phillips,) AND FOR TURNOVER
16)
17 Defendants.)
18)
19)
20)
21)
22)
23)
24)
25)

COMES NOW defendant Nancy James, the duly appointed Chapter 7 bankruptcy trustee for Christopher Phillips, Bankruptcy No. 08-14147, filed in the Western District of Washington (“Trustee”), through counsel, The Rigby Law Firm, and Rory C. Livesey, and answers the plaintiff’s complaint and cross claims against defendant Christopher B. Phillips (“Debtor”) as follows:

ANSWER

1. Trustee has no knowledge of the truth of the assertions contained in paragraph 1 of the plaintiff’s complaint and, therefore, denies the same.

**ANSWER AND CROSS CLAIM
TO DETERMINE EXEMPTIONS
AND FOR TURNOVER**
081103nAns Page 1

THE RIGBY LAW FIRM
600 Stewart Street, Suite 1908
Seattle, WA 98101 - (206) 441-0826

- 1 2. Admit.
- 2 3. Admit.
- 3 4. Admit.
- 4 5. Trustee has insufficient information to determine the truth of the matters contained
5 in paragraph 5 of the plaintiff's complaint and, therefore, denies the same.
- 6 6. Trustee has insufficient information to determine the truth of the matters contained
7 in paragraph 6 of the plaintiff's complaint and, therefore, denies the same.
- 8 7. Trustee has insufficient information to determine the truth of the matters contained
9 in paragraph 7 of the plaintiff's complaint and, therefore, denies the same.
- 10 8. Trustee has insufficient information to determine the truth of the matters contained
11 in paragraph 8 of the plaintiff's complaint and, therefore, denies the same.
- 12 9. Trustee has insufficient information to determine the truth of the matters contained
13 in paragraph 9 of the plaintiff's complaint and, therefore, denies the same.
- 14 10. Trustee has insufficient information to determine the truth of the matters contained
15 in paragraph 10 of the plaintiff's complaint and, therefore, denies the same.
- 16 11. Trustee has insufficient information to determine the truth of the matters contained
17 in paragraph 11 of the plaintiff's complaint and, therefore, denies the same.
- 18 12. Trustee has insufficient information to determine the truth of the matters contained
19 in paragraph 12 of the plaintiff's complaint and, therefore, denies the same.
- 20 13. Trustee has insufficient information to determine the truth of the matters contained
21 in paragraph 13 of the plaintiff's complaint and, therefore, denies the same.
- 22 14. Trustee has insufficient information to determine the truth of the matters contained
23 in paragraph 14 of the plaintiff's complaint and, therefore, denies the same.
- 24 15. Trustee has insufficient information to determine the truth of the matters contained
25 in paragraph 15 of the plaintiff's complaint and, therefore, denies the same.

1 16. Trustee has insufficient information to determine the truth of the matters contained
2 in paragraph 16 of the plaintiff's complaint and, therefore, denies the same.

3 17. Trustee has insufficient information to determine the truth of the matters contained
4 in paragraph 17 of the plaintiff's complaint and, therefore, denies the same.

5 18. Admit.

6 19. Trustee has insufficient information to determine the truth of the matters contained
7 in paragraph 19 of the plaintiff's complaint and, therefore, denies the same.

8 20. Trustee admits the allegations contained in the last sentence of paragraph 20 of the
9 plaintiff's complaint. Trustee has insufficient information to assess the truth or validity of the
10 remaining allegations in paragraph 20 and, therefore, denies the same.

11 21. Admit.

12 22. Paragraph 22 appears to be a request for relief and does not require an answer. To
13 the extent that an answer is required, Trustee denies the allegations contained therein.

14 23. Paragraph 23 appears to be a request for relief and does not require an answer. To
15 the extent that an answer is required, Trustee denies the allegations contained therein.

16 24. Paragraph 24 appears to be a request for relief and does not require an answer. To
17 the extent that an answer is required, Trustee denies the allegations contained therein.

CROSS CLAIM

21 By way of further response, Trustee makes the following cross claim against Debtor:

22 1. The cross plaintiff is the duly qualified and acting Trustee of the estate of the above-
23 named Debtor.

24 2. Debtor filed his Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition on July 2, 2008.

25 3. This cross claim is an adversary proceeding arising out of the Chapter 7 case of
Debtor now pending before this court. This court had jurisdiction over this adversary proceeding

**ANSWER AND CROSS CLAIM
TO DETERMINE EXEMPTIONS
AND FOR TURNOVER**

THE RIGBY LAW FIRM
600 Stewart Street, Suite 1908
Seattle, WA 98101 - (206) 441-0826

1 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. This is a core proceeding under 28 U.S.C. §§ 157(b)(2)(A),
2 (E) and (O). Venue in this court is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1409.

3 A. Determination of Debtor's Exemption

4 4. As part of his original bankruptcy petition, Debtor filed a Schedule C - Claim of
5 Exemptions. (*See* Bankruptcy No. 08-14147, Docket No. 1).

6 5. On August 15, 2008, Trustee filed an objection to the claims of exemption. (*See*
7 Bankruptcy No. 08-14147, Docket No. 23.)

8 6. On October 7, 2008, Debtor filed an Amended Schedule C. (*See* Bankruptcy No. 08-
9 14147, Docket No. 58.) Unlike the original Schedule C, the Amended Schedule C references the
10 Standard Insurance Policy claim at issue in the plaintiff's complaint.

11 7. On October 31, 2008, Trustee filed an objection to the amended exemption schedule.
12 (*See* Bankruptcy No. 08-14147, Docket No. 65.)

13 8. Pursuant to that objection, Debtor is not entitled to claim an exemption in the
14 Standard Insurance Policy and in payments generated therefrom, or in other property listed on both
15 the original Schedule C and the Amended Schedule C as referenced in either the original objection
16 to exemptions or the amended objection to exemption.

17 B. Turnover of Property of the Estate

18 9. After the filing of Debtor's bankruptcy petition, he received \$8,260.13 from Standard
19 Insurance Company.

20 10. These funds are property of the bankruptcy estate and have not been turned over to
21 Trustee.

22 WHEREFORE, Trustee prays for a judgment against Debtor as follows:

- 23 (i) for an order determining Debtor's exemptions;
24 (ii) for turnover of the \$8,260.13 insurance premium received post-petition;

- (iii) for attorney's fees and costs; and
- (iv) for whatever relief the court deems just in the premises.

DATED this 10th day of November, 2008.

THE RIGBY LAW FIRM

/S/ *Rory C. Livesey*

Rory C. Livesey, WSBA #17601
Of Attorneys for Defendant/Trustee

**ANSWER AND CROSS CLAIM
TO DETERMINE EXEMPTIONS
AND FOR TURNOVER**
081103nAns Page 5

THE RIGBY LAW FIRM
600 Stewart Street, Suite 1908
Seattle, WA 98101 - (206) 441-0826